

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

February 27, 2003 LR 14

to think about Senator Schrock's amendment. And I would also...while we're at it, I'm going to pass out a list of all the lobbying interests that we have registered this year. I think it's interesting. And I think that if we don't do anything this year, there will be a petition drive. There will be. There is no question in my mind about it. We said that on the floor last year, and everybody...or a lot of people said, oh, they can't get enough signatures; they don't have any...enough volunteers to do that. Well, they did. Now, whether that amendment would have eventually passed or not, that constitutional amendment, I have no idea. But there will be something this year. And I still believe that we can't put our heads in the sand and pretend it isn't going to happen. I think that we have to be responsible and we have to do something and put something on the ballot. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. (Visitors introduced.) Next speaker would be Senator Janssen. And once again, I'm going to ask if you're interested in speaking to this amendment of Senator Schrock's or to the bill. I have Senator Janssen, then Erdman, Smith, Tyson, Schimek, Stuhr, Jensen, Aguilar, and Johnson. Senator Janssen, do you wish to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Here we go again going back in time. I like to go back and think about ten...I think it was about ten or eleven years ago, we had a colleague that had an idea. His name was Senator Hall, and I remember very well Tim fighting this same type of battle on the floor at that time. He could see that the horse racing industry in this state was starting to go downhill. Senator Hall had an idea of establishing about what we're talking now, some type of expanded gaming that would have saved one of the very, very important tracks in this state. It was Ak-Sar-Ben. I'd like to talk a little bit about what Ak-Sar-Ben did. Ak-Sar-Ben, in its heyday, bought several rescue squads for our numerous volunteer fire departments throughout the state, the fire protection districts. They helped young people throughout the state. And that all came from one thing. In my opinion, it was Class III gaming. I believe that horse racing is Class III gaming. It's wagering. You might look at it a different way,